

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS TITLE 19. SOCIAL WORKERS

SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 19-101. Definitions

(a) In general. -- In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) Board. -- "Board" means the State Board of Social Work Examiners.

(c) Certified. -- "Certified" means having demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board that the individual has completed 2 years of supervised social work practice as defined in § 19-302 (d) or (e) of this title.

(d) License. -- "License" means, unless the context requires otherwise, one of four types of licenses issued by the Board authorizing an individual to practice:

(1) Bachelor social work;

(2) Graduate social work;

(3) Certified social work; or

(4) Certified social work-clinical.

(e) Licensed bachelor social worker. -- "Licensed bachelor social worker" means an individual licensed by the Board to practice bachelor social work.

(f) Licensed certified social worker. -- "Licensed certified social worker" means an individual licensed by the Board to practice certified social work.

(g) Licensed certified social worker-clinical. -- "Licensed certified social worker-clinical" means an individual licensed by the Board to practice clinical social work.

(h) Licensed graduate social worker. -- "Licensed graduate social worker" means an individual licensed by the Board to practice graduate social work.

(i) Practice bachelor social work. -- "Practice bachelor social work" means to practice social work:

(1) Under the supervision of a licensed certified social worker, licensed certified social worker-clinical, or licensed graduate social worker who meets the conditions specified in regulations; and

(2) Utilizing the education and training required under § 19-302 (b) of this title.

(j) Practice certified social work. -- "Practice certified social work" means to practice social work utilizing the education, training, and experience required under § 19-302(d) of this title.

(k) Practice clinical social work. -- "Practice clinical social work" means to practice social work utilizing the specialized education, training, and experience required under § 19-302 (e) of this title.

(l) Practice graduate social work. -- "Practice graduate social work" means to practice social work:

(1) Under the supervision of a licensed certified social worker, licensed certified social worker-clinical, or licensed graduate social worker who meets the conditions specified in regulations; and

(2) Utilizing the education and training required under § 19-302 (c) of this title.

(m) Practice social work. --

(1) "Practice social work" means to apply the theories, knowledge, procedures, methods, or ethics derived from a formal educational program in social work to restore or enhance social functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, or communities through:

(i) Assessment;

(ii) Planning;

(iii) Intervention;

(iv) Evaluation of intervention plans;

(v) Case management;

(vi) Information and referral;

(vii) Counseling that does not include diagnosis or treatment of mental disorders;

(viii) Advocacy;

(ix) Consultation;

(x) Education;

(xi) Research;

(xii) Community organization; or

(xiii) Development, implementation, and administration of policies, programs, and activities.

(2) For an individual licensed as a graduate social worker, "practice social work" also includes:

(i) Supervision of other social workers if the graduate social worker meets the requirements set out in regulations;

(ii) Formulating a diagnosis, under the direct supervision of a licensed certified social

worker-clinical;

(iii) Treatment of biopsychosocial conditions; and

(iv) Treatment of mental disorders and the provision of psychotherapy under the direct supervision of a licensed certified social worker-clinical.

(3) For an individual licensed as a certified social worker, "practice social work" also includes:

(i) Supervision of other social workers;

(ii) Formulating a diagnosis, under the direct supervision of a licensed certified social worker-clinical;

(iii) Treatment of biopsychosocial conditions; and

(iv) Treatment of mental disorders and the provision of psychotherapy under the direct supervision of a licensed certified social worker-clinical.

(4) For an individual licensed as a certified social worker-clinical, "practice social work" also includes:

(i) Supervision of other social workers;

(ii) Evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of biopsychosocial conditions, mental and emotional conditions and impairments, and mental disorders as defined in § 10-101(f) of the Health - General Article;

(iii) Petitioning for emergency evaluation under Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the Health - General Article; and

(iv) The provision of psychotherapy.

(n) Psychotherapy. -- "Psychotherapy" means the assessment and treatment of mental disorders and behavioral disturbances.

(o) Supervision. -- "Supervision" means a formalized professional relationship between a supervisor and a supervisee that:

(1) Provides evaluation and direction of the supervisee; and

(2) Promotes continued development of the supervisee's knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide social work services in an ethical and competent manner.

§ 19-102. Legislative policy

(a) Legislative findings. -- The General Assembly finds that the profession of social work profoundly affects the lives, health, safety, and welfare of the people of this State.

(b) Purpose of title. -- The purpose of this title is to protect the public by:

- (1) Setting minimum qualification, education, training, and experience standards for the licensing of individuals to practice social work; and
- (2) Promoting and maintaining high professional standards for the practice of social work.

§ 19-103. Scope of title

This title does not limit the right of an individual to practice a health occupation that the individual is authorized to practice under this article.